

ORIGINAL

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8-99-25

From: Mary Riddick
To: "lotta@outerbounds.net"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1
Date: Wed, Jul 14, 1999 3:42 PM
Subject: Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

RECEIVED

JUL 22 1999

Chairman Kennard, requested that I acknowledge and review your comment and that it has been forwarded to the FCC Secretary's Office for association with Docket#99-25.

Federal Communications Commission
 Office of Secretary

>>> A Voice <lotta@outerbounds.net> 07/13 10:19 PM >>>

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
 Commissioner Gloria Tristani,
 Commissioner Michael Powell
 Commissioner Susan Ness
 Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
 Federal Communications Commission
 The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554
 cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore,
 Bill Bradley, and George W Bush
 cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

MM Docket No. 99-25

Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the

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Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities.

In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
2. Licenses should be held locally, be non-transferable, affordable to all communities, easy to apply for and limited to one per license holder; they should NOT be businesses.
3. Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.
4. The Commission should NOT diminish new low-power stations to

"secondary status." It would be a tragedy to take away licenses from low-power community stations just because the Commission subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station or granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.

5. The Commission should grant full amnesty for the microbroadcast pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines. Their property should be returned. They should be granted equal opportunity in applying for and receiving new licenses.

6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g. the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.

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10. Licenses should be awarded to unincorporated non-commercial associations, and non-profit organizations.

11. Within two years new spectrum space (including any future digital spectrum space) should be allocated for continued expansion of microradio broadcasters so that any community group that wishes to broadcast has access to available spectrum space (frequencies). Further, all manufacturers of consumer radio receivers for sale in the United States should be required to include this spectrum set aside for microradio broadcasters.

12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

Again, we commend Chairman Kennard and the Commission for your willingness to address these issues. We are hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio licensing becomes a reality during the Chairman's present term. We look forward to working on making the airwaves more accessible for our local communities.

Signed,

MEC Honorary Chair:
Robert W. McChesney, Madison

Steering Committee:
Sara Zia Ebrahimi, Philadelphia
Diane Fleming, Philadelphia

Peter Franck, San Francisco
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
Alan Korn, San Francisco
Greg Ruggiero, New York City

Robert W. McChesney-- University Of Illinois, Urbana
Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University
Nancy Kranich--Librarian
Ron Daniels--Executive Director ,Center for Constitutional Rights
George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement
Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
Janine Jackson--Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting
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Laura Flanders--national producer for Pacifica Radio
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Al Lewis--Organizer ("Grandpa" from the Munsters)
Dee Dee Halleck--Deep Dish TV
Ben Bagdikian--University of California, Berkeley
Loretta Ross--Executive Director, National Center for Human Rights Education
Carl Jensen--Founder, Project Censored
Ellen Braune--Publicist
Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology
Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press
Juliet Schor--Harvard University
Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=
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street=907 CR 207 #B
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state=CO
zip=81301
=Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

ORIGINAL

From: Mary Riddick
To: "ddill@cais.com"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1
Date: Wed, Jul 14, 1999 3:41 PM
Subject: Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

>>> Dave Diller <ddill@cais.com> 07/13 9:04 PM >>>
=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
Commissioner Gloria Tristani,
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
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Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University
Nancy Kranich--Librarian
Ron Daniels--Executive Director ,Center for Constitutional Rights
George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement
Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
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Laura Flanders--national producer for Pacifica Radio
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Gary Ruskin, Director, Commercial Alert
Elaine Bernard--Harvard Trade Union Program
Al Lewis--Organizer ("Grandpa" from the Munsters)
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Ben Bagdikian--University of California, Berkeley
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Carl Jensen--Founder, Project Censored
Ellen Braune--Publicist
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Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press
Juliet Schor--Harvard University
Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=
name=Dave Diller
street=8905 48th Ave
city=College Park
state=MD
zip=20740
=Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DK-99-25

From: Mary Riddick
To: "bananas-@webtv.net"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1
Date: Wed, Jul 14, 1999 3:45 PM
Subject: Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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JUL 22 1999

Chairman Kennard, requested that I acknowledge and review your comment and that it has been forwarded to the FCC Secretary's Office for association with Docket#99-25.

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

>>> <bananas-@webtv.net> 07/13 11:32 PM >>>

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DK-99-25

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JUL 22 1999

From: Mary Riddick
To: "ehstein@usa.net"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1
Date: Wed, Jul 14, 1999 3:44 PM
Subject: Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

Chairman Kennard, requested that I acknowledge and review your comment and that it has been forwarded to the FCC Secretary's Office for association with Docket#99-25.

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

>>> "Edward H. Stein" <estein1@tampabay.rr.com> 07/13 11:17 PM >>>

Edward H. Stein
2400 S. Trask St.
Tampa, FL 33629-5551
E-mail: ehstein@usa.net

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ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

From: Mary Riddick
To: "flimflam@acninc.net"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1
Date: Wed, Jul 14, 1999 3:44 PM
Subject: Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

>>> "Leon E. Flanagan" <flimflam@acninc.net> 07/14 2:12 AM >>>

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
Commissioner Gloria Tristani,
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554
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Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=
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street=P.O.Box 22725
city=Brooklyn
state=NY
zip=11202
=Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

ORIGINAL

DK-7925

From: Mary Riddick
To: "yves@gol.com"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1
Date: Wed, Jul 14, 1999 3:43 PM
Subject: Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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JUL 22 1999

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Federal Communications Commission
 Office of Secretary

>>> "Yves" <yves@gol.com> 07/13 9:54 PM >>>
 To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
 Commissioner Gloria Tristani,
 Commissioner Michael Powell
 Commissioner Susan Ness
 Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
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Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL
EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DK-99-25

From: Mary Riddick
To: "ashiken@igc.org"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1
Date: Wed, Jul 14, 1999 4:16 PM
Subject: Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

RECEIVED

JUL 22 1999

Chairman Kennard, requested that I acknowledge and review your comment and that it has been forwarded to the FCC Secretary's Office for association with Docket#99-25.

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

>>> Andrew Hiken <ashiken@igc.org> 07/14 9:43 AM >>>

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
Commissioner Gloria Tristani,
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554
cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore,
Bill Bradley, and George W Bush
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

MM Docket No. 99-25

Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

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In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

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Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=
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street=911 W. Gunnison St.
city=Chicago
state=IL
zip=60640
=Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

From: Mary Riddick
To: "prewitt@halcyon.com"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1
Date: Wed, Jul 14, 1999 3:49 PM
Subject: Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

RECEIVED

JUL 22 1999

Chairman Kennard, requested that I acknowledge and review your comment and that it has been forwarded to the FCC Secretary's Office for association with Docket#99-25.

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

>>> prewitt <prewitt@halcyon.com> 07/14 12:57 AM >>>

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DK-99-25

From: Mary Riddick
To: "bncfeyen@mwt.net"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1
Date: Wed, Jul 14, 1999 4:30 PM
Subject: Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

RECEIVED

JUL 22 1999

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

>>> feyen <bncfeyen@mwt.net> 07/14 11:01 AM >>>

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
Commissioner Gloria Tristani,
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554
cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore,
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cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

MM Docket No. 99-25

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Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=
name=Carol Feyen
street=28256 Johns Hill Dr
city=Muscoda
state=wi
zip=53573
=Send to FCC

EX PARTE OF LATE FILED

ORIGINAL DK-99-25

From: Mary Riddick
To: "mrsosulski@students.wisc.edu"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1
Date: Wed, Jul 14, 1999 4:30 PM
Subject: Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

RECEIVED

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Federal Communications Commission
 Office of Secretary

>>> Marya Sosulski <mrsosulski@students.wisc.edu> 07/14 11:22 AM >>>

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
 Commissioner Gloria Tristani,
 Commissioner Michael Powell
 Commissioner Susan Ness
 Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
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 The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554
 cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore,
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Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=
name=Marya Sosulski
street=20 N. Baldwin St.
city=Madison
state=WI
zip=53703
=Send to FCC